

By If fed with the mask information from the control circuit 101, the selector 102 designates for MUX/DMUX 103a to 103d the accessing addresses obtained as a result of masking performed in the (4x4) interleaving patterns P, on the basis of the masking information, as shown in Fig. 9. Thus, of the addresses A_0 to A_{15} in the interleaving pattern specified by P(4,1) shown in Fig. 9, the addresses to be accessed, obtained as the result of masking, are A4, A5, A6, A8, A9, A10, A13, A14 and A15, shown shaded in Fig. 10.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1 and 9 to 23, without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

Sub C2 24. (New) An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the control circuit detects at least one pixel pattern which includes an overlay portion with the desired primitive, and for outputting pixel pattern information indicating the detected at least one pixel pattern; and
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5 said accessing unit accesses a memory according to the pixel pattern

information and stores the pixel data generated by the pixel generator into the memory in units of pixel data corresponding to the coordinate pattern.

25. (New) A method used in an apparatus which comprises a memory for storing pixel data, the method comprising the steps of:

generating coordinate data specifying a desired primitive;

generating pixel data of the desired primitive;

accessing a memory and storing the pixel data generated by the pixel generator into the memory according to an optimal pixel pattern;

specifying a shape of the optimal pixel pattern according to the coordinate data generated by the processor such that the accessing unit stores the pixel data into the memory with the minimum number of times of accessing the memory.

26. (New) A method according to claim 25, wherein the step of specifying a shape comprises specifying the shape of the optimal pixel pattern by selecting one pixel pattern from a plurality of pixel patterns according to the coordinate data, the plurality of pixel patterns being different in shape from each other and each of the plurality of pixel patterns having the same number of pixels.

27. (New) A method according to claim 25, further comprising:
a step of calculating an aspect ratio of the desired primitive based on the
coordinate data; and
wherein the shape of the optimal pixel pattern is specified according to the
aspect ratio in the step of specifying a shape.

28. (New) A method according to claim 25, further comprising:
a step of detecting, of plural pixel patterns formed on a predetermined
coordinate area including the coordinate data, at least one pixel pattern which includes an
overlay portion with the desired primitive, and outputting pixel pattern information
indicating the detected at least one pixel pattern; and
said step of accessing comprising accessing a memory according to the
pixel pattern information, and comprising storing the pixel data generated by the pixel
generator into the memory in units of pixel data corresponding to the coordinate pattern.